

Analysis of BaBar data for three meson tau decay modes using the Tauola generator

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Abstract. The hadronic current for the $\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^- \nu_\tau$ decay calculated in the framework of the Resonance Chiral Theory with an additional modification to include the σ meson is described. Implementation into the Monte Carlo generator Tauola and fitting strategy to get the model parameters using the one-dimensional distributions are discussed. The results of the fit to one-dimensional mass invariant spectrum of the BaBar data are presented. This paper is based on [1].

1 Introduction

The precise experimental data for tau lepton decays collected at B-factories (both Belle and BaBar) provide an opportunity to measure the Standard Model (SM) parameters, such as the strong coupling constant, the quark-mixing matrix, the strange quark mass etc, and for searching new physics, beyond SM. The leptonic decay modes of the tau lepton allow to test the universality of the lepton couplings to the gauge bosons. The hadronic decays (in fact, the tau lepton due to its high mass is only one that can decay into hadrons) give an information about the hadronization mechanism and resonance dynamics in the energy region where the methods of the perturbative QCD cannot be applied. Also hadronic flavour-violating and CP violating decays of tau lepton allow to search for new physics scenario.

Hadronic tau lepton decays are also a tool in high-energy physics. At the LHC and future linear colliders a correct simulation of the hadronic decay modes, mainly two pion and three pion modes, is needed to measure the Higgs spin and its CP properties.

The implementation of the appropriate information on the hadronization of the QCD currents represents a key task of the TAUOLA library [2, 3]. TAUOLA is a Monte Carlo generator (MC) dedicated to generating tau decays and it is used in the analysis of experimental data both at B-factories and LHC. It is important to include in the analyses the information of QCD itself and not of ad-hoc models that may screen the appropriate information from data. On the other hand an agreement with experimental data is essential and verifies a theoretical model. Resonance Chiral Theory (RChT) [4, 5] provides such a reliable framework as it has been shown in many previous publications [6–9]. A set of RChT currents for the main two meson and three meson, namely, $\pi^- \pi^0$, $K^- \pi^0$, $K^0 \pi^-$, $\pi^- \pi^- \pi^+$, $\pi^0 \pi^0 \pi^-$, $K^- \pi^- K^+$, $K^0 \pi^- \bar{K}^0$ and $K^- \pi^0 K^0$, was installed. That set covers more than 88% of total hadronic τ width. The implementation of the currents, technical tests on it as well as necessary theoretical concepts are documented in [10].

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Publication by BaBar collaboration of the one-dimensional distributions for the $\pi^-\pi^-\pi^+$ mode [11] allows us to compare the RChT predicted spectra and modify the corresponding hadronic current to describe the experimental data. The main change is related with the σ meson inclusion. The paper is organized as follows. In Section 2 the hadronic currents for $\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^-\pi^-\pi^+\nu_\tau$ is presented. Fit of the three mass-invariant distributions for that process to BaBar data is presented in Section 3 where also the numerical tests are discussed. Summary, Section 4, closes the paper.

2 Hadronic current for $\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^-\pi^-\pi^+\nu_\tau$ mode

For the final state of three pions $\pi^-(p_1), \pi^-(p_2), \pi^+(p_3)$ the Lorentz invariance determines the decomposition of the hadronic current to be [10]

$$J^\mu = N\{T_\nu^\mu[(p_2 - p_3)^\nu F_1 - (p_3 - p_1)^\nu F_2] + q^\mu F_4 - \frac{i}{4\pi^2 F^2} c_5 \epsilon_\nu^{\mu\alpha\beta} p_{1\alpha} p_{2\beta} p_{3\gamma} F_5\}, \quad (1)$$

where: $T_{\mu\nu} = g_{\mu\nu} - q_\mu q_\nu / q^2$ denotes the transverse projector, and $q^\mu = (p_1 + p_2 + p_3)^\mu$ is the momentum of the hadronic system. The normalization factor is $N = \cos\theta_{\text{Cabibbo}}/F$, where F is the pion decay constant in chiral limit. In the isospin symmetry limit, the F_5 form factor for the three pion mode is zero due to G -parity conservation [12] and thus we will neglect it.

The hadronic form factor, F_i , are model dependent functions. In general they depend on three independent invariant masses that are constructed from the three meson four-vectors. We chose $q^2 = (p_1 + p_2 + p_3)^2$ and two invariant masses $s_1 = (p_2 + p_3)^2$, $s_2 = (p_1 + p_3)^2$ built from pairs of momenta (then $s_3 = (p_1 + p_2)^2 = q^2 - s_1 - s_2 + 3m_\pi^2$).

In the framework of RChT every hadronic form factor consists of three parts: a chiral contribution (direct decay, without production of any intermediate resonance), one-resonance and double-resonance mediated processes. The exact form of the form factors within RChT are written in [10], Eqs. (4)-(10). We would like to stress that only vector and axial-vector resonances contribution to the hadronic form factors were included [6, 10]. The first comparison of the $R_{\chi L}$ results for the $\pi^-\pi^-\pi^+$ mode with the BaBar data [11], did not demonstrate a satisfactory agreement for the two pion invariant mass distributions and hinted that the lack of the $f_0(600)$ (or σ) meson contribution to the hadronic form factors may be responsible for that discrepancy [13].

As the σ meson is, predominantly, a tetraquark state it cannot be included in the RChT formalism. In view of this we have decided to incorporate the σ meson following a phenomenological approach as the s-wave Breit-Wigner function. In fact, a similar parametrization was used by the CLEO collaboration in the analysis of the three pion decay modes of the tau lepton [14]. The σ meson inclusion affects the $F_1(Q^2, s, t)$ and $F_2(Q^2, s, t)$ form factors in the following way

$$\begin{aligned} F_1^R &\rightarrow F_1^R + \frac{\sqrt{2}F_V G_V}{3F^2} \left[\alpha_\sigma BW_\sigma(s_1) F_\sigma(q^2, s_1) + \beta_\sigma BW_\sigma(s_2) F_\sigma(q^2, s_2) \right], \\ F_1^{RR} &\rightarrow F_1^{RR} + \frac{4F_A G_V}{3F^2} \frac{q^2}{q^2 - M_{a_1}^2 - iM_{a_1}\Gamma_{a_1}(q^2)} \left[\gamma_\sigma BW_\sigma(s_1) F_\sigma(q^2, s_1) + \delta_\sigma BW_\sigma(s_2) F_\sigma(q^2, s_2) \right], \end{aligned} \quad (2)$$

where

$$BW_\sigma(x) = \frac{M_\sigma^2}{M_\sigma^2 - x - iM_\sigma\Gamma_\sigma(x)}, \quad \Gamma_\sigma(x) = \Gamma_\sigma \frac{\sigma_\pi(x)}{\sigma_\pi(M_\sigma^2)}, \quad F_\sigma(q^2, x) = \exp\left[\frac{-\lambda(q^2, x, m_\pi^2)R_\sigma^2}{8q^2}\right],$$

and $\sigma_\pi(q^2) \equiv \sqrt{1 - 4m_\pi^2/q^2}$ and $\lambda(x, y, z) = (x - y - z)^2 - 4yz$. Bose symmetry implies that the form factors F_1 and F_2 are related $F_2(q^2, s_2, s_1) = F_1(q^2, s_1, s_2)$. The vertex coupling constants $\alpha_\sigma, \beta_\sigma, \gamma_\sigma, \delta_\sigma$

	M_{ρ}	$M_{\rho'}$	$\Gamma_{\rho'}$	M_{a_1}	M_{σ}	Γ_{σ}	F	F_V
Min	0.767	1.35	0.30	0.99	0.400	0.400	0.088	0.11
Max	0.780	1.50	0.50	1.25	0.550	0.700	0.094	0.25
Fit	0.771849	1.350000	0.448379	1.091865	0.487512	0.700000	0.091337	0.168652
	F_A	$\beta_{\rho'}$	α_{σ}	β_{σ}	γ_{σ}	δ_{σ}	R_{σ}	
Min	0.1	-0.37	-10.	-10.	-10.	-10.	-10.	
Max	0.2	-0.17	10.	10.	10.	10.	10.	
Fit	0.131425	-0.318551	-8.795938	9.763701	1.264263	0.656762	1.866913	

Table 1. Numerical ranges of the RChT parameters used to fit the BaBar data and the result of fit to BaBar data for three pion mode [11].

and δ_{σ} as well as the mass (M_{σ}) and width (Γ_{σ}) of the σ mesons are left to be fitted to data. More details about the modification to the RChT three pion currnsnt are presented in [1].

The further application we present here also a result for the differential $\tau \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^- \pi^+ \nu_{\tau}$ width:

$$\frac{d\Gamma}{dq^2 ds_1 ds_3} = \frac{G_F^2 |V_{ud}|^2}{128(2\pi)^5 M_{\tau} F^2} \left(\frac{M_{\tau}^2}{q^2} - 1 \right)^2 \left[W_{SA} + \frac{1}{3} \left(1 + 2 \frac{q^2}{M_{\tau}^2} \right) W_A \right], \quad (3)$$

where

$$W_A = -(V_1^{\mu} F_1 + V_2^{\mu} F_2 + V_3^{\mu} F_3)(V_{1\mu} F_1 + V_{2\mu} F_2 + V_{3\mu} F_3), \quad W_{SA} = q^2 |F_4|^2.$$

3 Fit to $\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^- \pi^+ \nu_{\tau}$ data from BaBar. Numerical results and tests

The three one-dimensional distributions, namely $d\Gamma/dq^2$, $d\Gamma/ds_1$ and $d\Gamma/ds_3$, were fitted to the BaBar data [11]. The corresponding distributions are obtained from the three-dimensional spectrum, Eq.(3), by integration over two parameters. The partial width is normalized to one measured by BaBar $\Gamma = (2.00 \pm 0.03\%) \cdot 10^{-13}$ GeV [15].

The fit results are presented in table 1 and figure 1 and correspond to $\chi^2/ndf = 6658/401$. In our previous paper [13], χ^2 was computed using the combined statistical and systematic uncertainties since only the total covariance matrix was publicly available. For the present results we obtain $\chi^2/ndf = 910/401$, when the total covariance matrix is used and conditions enabling direct comparisons are fulfilled, that is eight times better than the previous result [13].

The statistical uncertainties were determined using the HESSE routine from minuit [16] under the assumption that the correlations between distributions and the correlations related to having two entries per event in the $\pi^- \pi^+$ distribution can be neglected. The fit results with estimated systematical and statistical errors, the statistical correlation matrix and the correlation matrix for systematic uncertainties are collected in tables 3, 4 and 5 of [1], correspondingly. The strong correlation (correlation coefficients moduli bigger than 0.95) was found between four parameters of the model M_{a_1} , F_{π} , F_V and $\beta_{\rho'}$. The correlation between these parameters can be explained by the underlying dynamics: the dominant contribution to the hadronic currents originates from the exchange $a_1 \rightarrow (\rho; \rho')\pi$ and, as a consequence, strong correlations between F_V , F_A , F_{π} and also M_{a_1} and $\beta_{\rho'}$ could have been expected, as it is the case for all of them but for F_A which shows slightly smaller correlations (more details can be found in section V.A in [1]). Also the parameters β_{σ} and $\Gamma_{\rho'}$ are correlated (the corresponding correlation coefficients are larger than 0.85).

The following test has been done to check whether the obtained minimum is a global one and does not depend on an initial point. We started with random scan of $2.1 \cdot 10^5$ points and select 1000

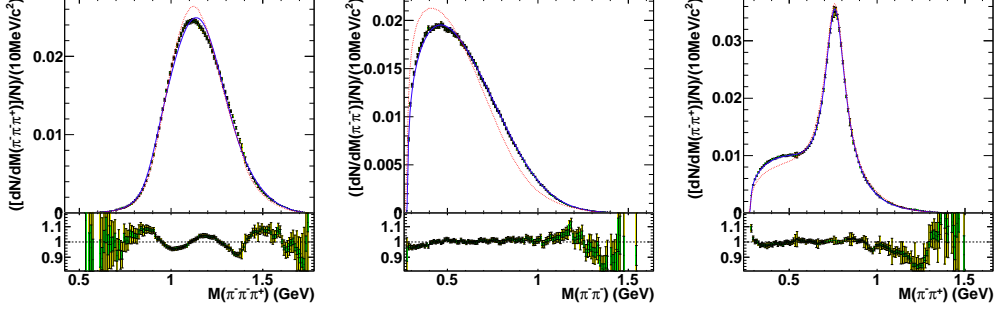


Figure 1. The $\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^- \pi^+ \nu_\tau$ decay invariant mass distribution of the three-pion system (left panel) and two-pion pairs (central and right panels). The BaBar measurements [11] are represented by the data points, with the results from the RChT current as described in the text (blue line) and the old tune from CLEO from Refs. [17] (red-dashed line) overlaid. At the bottom of the figures ratio of new RChT prediction to the data is given. The parameters used in our new model are collected in Table 1.

events with the best χ^2 , from which 20 points with maximum distance between points and then these points are used as a start point for the full fit. The result: more than an half converges to the minimum (table 1), others either fall with number of parameters at their limits or converge to local minimum with higher χ^2 . Therefore, we conclude that the obtained result is stable and does not depend on an initial value of the fitting parameters.

As an additional cross check we calculated the partial width resulting from the phase space integration of the matrix element $\Gamma_{\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^- \pi^+ \nu_\tau} = 1.9974 \cdot 10^{-13}$ GeV which agrees with the one measured by BaBar $\Gamma_{\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^- \pi^+ \nu_\tau} = (2.00 \pm 0.03\%) \cdot 10^{-13}$ GeV [15].

Comparison between the RChT results (after fit) and the BaBar spectra, presented in figure 1, demonstrates a possibility of missing resonances in the model 2. For the $\pi^+ \pi^-$ mass invariant spectrum it can be $f_2(1270)$ and $f_0(1370)$, which were reported CLEO [14, 18] and are suggested by the fit to the BaBar data. The largest discrepancies between data and the fitted distribution, which are responsible for a significant part of the total χ^2 , are observed also in the 3π invariant mass distribution. The slope and shape of the disagreement in the 3π invariant mass spectrum, in particular around 1.5 GeV in Fig. 1, indicates the possibility of interference between $a_1(1260)$ and its excited state $a_1(1640)$.

4 Conclusion

In this paper we discussed the hadronic current for the $\tau^- \rightarrow \pi^- \pi^+ \pi^- \nu_\tau$ decay within RChT and a modification to the current to include the sigma meson. The choice of this channel was motivated by its relatively large branching ratio, availability of unfolded experimental distribution and already non-trivial dynamics of three-pion final state. In addition, this channel is important for Higgs spin-parity studies through the associated di- τ decays. As a result, we improved agreement with the data by a factor of about eight.

To get the numerical values of the RChT parameters we fitted the one dimensional mass invariant distributions to the published BaBar data. Also we have tested that the obtained results correspond to a global minimum and that the fitting procedure does not depend on the initial values of the model parameters.

We have found discrepancies in the high mass region of the $\pi^+\pi^-$ and $\pi^+\pi^-\pi^-$ invariant mass indicate the possibility of missing resonances in our $R\chi L$ approach. This is consistent with the observation of additional resonances, more specifically the $f_2(1270)$ and $f_0(1370)$ and $a_1(1640)$, by CLEO in [14, 18]. Although we could add phenomenologically the contribution of these resonances to the amplitude, we prefer not to do it at the moment to keep a compromise between the number of parameters, the stability of the fit and the amount of experimental data. Certainly, that type of improvements will be done in future analysis of multi-dimensional distributions.

The work on a generalization of the fitting strategy to a case of an arbitrary three meson tau decay is in progress.

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